

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004. Claims 20, 21, 54 and 55 stand allowed. Claims 6, 7, 8, 12, 24, 25, 38 and 44 have been amended. Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 11, 13 to 19, 22, 23, 26 to 37, 39 to 43 and 45 to 53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. No fees are due. Please charge deposit account no. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

Claims 1 to 14, 17 to 19 and 22 to 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 10-052558 to Takatoshi ("Takatoshi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,400,990 to Frankel ("Frankel"). Claims 20, 21, 54 and 55 have been allowed.

Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse the rejection of Claims 1 to 14, 17 to 19 and 22 to 52 under § 103(a). Nevertheless, Applicants have amended Claims 6, 7, 8, 12, 24, 25, 38 and 44 and canceled Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 11, 13 to 19, 22, 23, 26 to 37, 39 to 43 and 45 to 53 to place the application in condition for allowance. The amended claims all depend from the allowed claims. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6 to 8, 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, 38, 44, 54 and 55 are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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